

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No: To Be Assigned  
Applicant: Robert Joseph Panek, Jr. et al.  
Filed: Herewith  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR UNWINDING A NEEDLE PORTION  
TC/A.U.:  
Examiner:

**Divisional of:**

Appln. No: 09/934,298  
Applicant: Robert Joseph Panek, Jr. et al.  
Filed: August 21, 2001  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR UNWINDING A NEEDLE PORTION  
TC/A.U.: 3728  
Examiner: Shian Tinh Nhan Luong

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith.

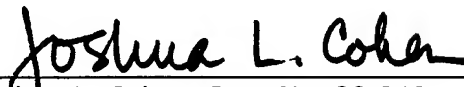
Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form 1449 are not required to be provided, because they were cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. 09/934,298, filed August 21, 2001, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorneys for Applicants

JLC/CMS/lcf

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449

Dated: August 1, 2003

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kathleen Libby

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Robert Joseph Panek, Jr.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	TC01-101US1

SHEET 1 of 2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-4,466,538	08/21/1984	Gianni	Entire Document
		US-4,488,643	12/18/1984	Pepper	Entire Document
		US-4,494,652	01/22/1985	Nelson et al.	Entire Document
		US-4,576,281	03/18/1986	Kirksey	Entire Document
		US-4,801,013	01/31/1989	Bruno	Entire Document
		US-4,986,811	01/22/1991	Thead et al.	Entire Document
		US-4,989,307	02/05/1991	Sharpe et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,069,667	12/03/1991	Freundlich et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,092,462	03/03/1992	Sagstetter et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,188,598	02/23/1993	Thead et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,201,417	04/13/1993	Outlaw, III	Entire Document
		US-5,322,164	06/21/1994	Richardson et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,409,112	04/25/1995	Sagstetter	Entire Document
		US-5,409,113	04/25/1995	Richardson et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,474,181	12/12/1995	Shillington et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,573,113	11/12/1996	Shillington et al.	Entire Document
		US-5,857,569	01/12/1999	Hoftman et al.	Entire Document
		US-6,019,218	02/01/2000	Racicot et al.	Entire Document
		US-6,027,392	02/22/2000	Ruhlman	Entire Document
		US-6,062,001	05/16/2000	Kunik	Entire Document

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

<sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

<sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. . Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Application Number	To Be Assigned
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First Named Inventor	Robert Joseph Panek, Jr.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	TC01-101US1

**SHEET 2 of 2**

[illegible][illegible]Date  
Considered

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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